Pending investigations, the said firm has been placed under abeyance, prohibiting the export of T.M.P. A show cause notice has been also issued to the aforesaid firm/its directors contemplating to debar them from exporting any goods and/or from receiving any export licences and also to impose fiscal penalty on the allegation that they had exported T.M.P. in contravention of the Export Policy in force.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Expansion of Marketing Operations by MMTC

1639. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether MMTC is planning to expand its marketing operations due to decanalisation of non-ferrous metals and particulars alongwith their raw materials and intermediaries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any plan for expansion has been drawn ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon decanalisation of non-ferrous metals, fertilizer raw materials, fertilizer intermediates, etc. and resultant likely impact on its turnover, MMTC has identified new areas of activities in the fields of agro, marine, gems & jewellery, textiles, leather and chemicals for expansion of its marketing operations in addition to the existing lines of its activities such as minerals, metals, fertilizers etc.

1640. [*Transferred to 8th December*, 1992.]

Export Earnings

1641. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether export earnings of the country have not caught up so far as reported in the Economic Times of October 29, 1992;

(b) whether exports will take into account need for essential home supplies specially the traditional items such as fish, fruits & vegetables and animal feeds etc; and

(c) whether Government would, instead, concentrate on exports of non-traditional items such as mushrooms, flowers and other western style fruts and vegetables through increased production/productivity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) According to the provisional figures, India's exports during the first six months of the current financial year, i.e., April–September, 1992, amounted to US $ 8549 million (Rs. 24403 crores) as compared to US $ 8113 million (Rs. 18711 crores) thereby registering a growth of 5.4 per cent (in rupee terms, 30.4 per cent). Thus the negative trend in exports, in dollar terms, during the last one year has been reversed.

(b) It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodities in a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected.

(c) The Government, as a policy are encouraging export of all non-traditional value-added items, including mushrooms, flowers and other western style fruits and vegetables, through increased production and productivity. Special emphasis is being laid for development of horticulture during 8th plan and increase in productivity has been identified as thrust area with application of modern techniques.

Set-Back to Rubber Exports

1642. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that rubber exports have received a set back as reported in the Economic Times of 24th October, 1992;

(b) whether the Rubber Board has developed a successful technology for use of rubber on roads; and

(c) if so, whether surplus rubber would be utilised for this essential artery for road transport ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A small quantity of 11,822 MTs of natural rubber was exported in 1991-92 and 1992-93 (till date) on account of a temporary surplus in the domestic market. Natural rubber is not normally exported as there is usually no surplus. As such, it will not be correct to say that exports of natural rubber have received a set-back.

(b) The Rubber Board has developed knowhow for rubberisation of roads. It has already undertaken rubberisation of roads on a commercial basis on the main roads in Kerala in collaboration with the Kerala Public Works Department.

(c) Some surplus rubber could be used for rubberisation of roads, if State and Central Public Works Departments come forward to adopt this system.

International Price Reimbursement Scheme

1643. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused budgetary assistance of Rs. 220 crore to fund the International Price Reimbursement Scheme;

(b) if so, whether it would hit the realisation of engineering exports target worth over $2 billion! and

(c) the alternative steps being taken/ proposed to be taken to achieve the target ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) There is no budget provision for International price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) during 1992-93. International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) is financed from the Engineering Goods Exports Assistance Fund (EGEAF) constituted by levy of cess on pig iron and specified categories of saleable steel produced by the Integrated Steel Plants. But during 1992-93, accruals to EGEAF from out of the cess will not be sufficient to fully meet the requirements of IPRS. Efforts to augment funds for IPRS are being made. The target for export for engineering goods for 1992-93 is likely to be achieved.

Payments of Exporters to Eastwhile USSR

1644. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the balance of trade between India and Russia for the year 1991-92 and during the first 6 months of 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that lot of payments for Indian Exports to erstwhile USSR have not been received by our Exporters despite efforts by various agencies; and

(c) what effective steps Government are taking in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Presently disaggregated figures for India's trade with Russia are not maintained by